

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mitchell House

AND/OR COMMON

Mitchell House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

131 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Cecil

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

— YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Judge Edward D. E. Rollins

STREET &amp; NUMBER

131 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cecil County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CE-149

## CONDITION

— EXCELLENT  
— GOOD  
— FAIR

— DETERIORATED  
— RUINS  
— UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
— ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
— MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mitchell House is located at 131 E. Main Street in Elkton, Maryland, next to the Cecil County Court House. This Georgian Townhouse was built circa 1769-1781 by Dr. Abraham Mitchell, a physician from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It shows fine original detail characteristic of both the early and later periods of the Georgian style in America.

This 2-1/2 story house of three by two bays on a high basement is almost square in plan. On the exterior, white stucco over brick simulates ashlar masonry. There are wooden flat arches with large keystones over the southeast (front) first floor windows. These lower windows have paneled blinds, but those of the second floor are louvered.

The small portico at the entrance has slender Tuscan columns and granite steps which run parallel to the sidewalk. It is accessible from either lateral direction. Fluted pilasters at the front entrance support a partial entablature with dentils over a fire-light rectangular transom. The ridge of the roof is parallel to the street and a wooden cornice with large modillions extends around all sides forming a pediment in the gabled ends.

The Mitchell House has a floor plan characteristic of many Georgian Townhouses. The stair hall extends to the rear of the original house along the southwestern side. On each floor are two rooms, each heated by a fireplace. An interior chimney served all four fireplaces, of which three remain open.

Originally there was an arcade extending from the rear of the main house to a two-story kitchen. The kitchen has been remodeled and incorporated within a two story addition which replaced the arcade. To the rear along the northeastern property line is a two story carriage house now used for law offices.

The interior of the Mitchell House shows good workmanship and proportion. The stair, with scrolled steps, has turned balusters, two on each step, and a mahogany handrail which runs directly into the newel post without an easing. Underneath the stair there is one large triangular panel. In the front parlor there are segmental arched openings flanking the fireplace, which has a dentiled mantel with a projecting shelf. At the top of the windows in this room, and in the dining room to the rear of it, there is a decorative, carved board. Both of the rooms on this lower floor have a deep cornice, and that of the parlor has dentils. The dining room, separated from the parlor by a large opening, had a corner fireplace which is now closed. The window in the dining room is splayed; and, as in the parlor, there is an eared architrave surrounding the door to the stair hall. Throughout the first floor, the walls are plastered above and below a chair rail.

On the second level, there are two bedrooms and a small room at the front of the stair hall. In the front bedroom, the fireplace is flanked by two closets in a typical Georgian symmetrical arrangement.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Medicine

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robert Alexander, a Baltimore lawyer who owned the lot in Elkton in the decade before the Mitchell House was built, was a prominent Maryland Patriot just before the start of the American Revolution. In the decade preceding the war, he participated in many revolutionary meetings and organizations. He was selected to represent Maryland at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1775. He attended the Congress for five months, leaving in May 1776 because he ultimately could not support the idea of independence for the colonies. He had to flee Maryland for this conviction, and much of his property was later confiscated by the government. Supposedly the only man of social standing from Cecil County to become a Loyalist<sup>1</sup>, Alexander owned a large amount of land in and near Elkton. Because he had moved to Baltimore, he leased much of this land.

Abraham Mitchell, a physician who came to Cecil County from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the 1750's, leased one of Alexander's lots in Elkton, then called Head of Elk, in 1769. An interesting phrase in the lease states that Mitchell agreed to "not raise or keep any swine or goose on the said demised premises."<sup>2</sup> It was possible between 1769 and 1781, when he moved his family to property he had purchased at Fair Hill,<sup>3</sup> that Dr. Mitchell built on this lot, the brick (now stucco) house today bearing his name.

In the years after he settled in Cecil County, Dr. Mitchell's practice expanded to include parts of Cecil and Harford Counties in Maryland and New Castle County in Delaware. This extended practice brought sufficient income for him to invest some of his money in real estate. He bought 300 acres in the Elkton vicinity and took up farming in addition to medicine. By 1783, he had 5 slaves, 20 head of cattle, 5 horses and 630 acres of land.<sup>4</sup> During the Revolution, he opened his home in Elkton (the Mitchell House) as a temporary hospital for the Continental Army, and for this the Maryland apse in Valley

<sup>1</sup> George Johnston, History of Cecil County, Maryland, Reprint of 1881 ed. in Cecil County, a Reference Book of History, Business, and General Information (Baltimore: County Directories of Maryland, Inc., 1956), p. 320.

<sup>2</sup> Cecil County Land Records 11/485, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

<sup>3</sup> Johnston, p. 496.

<sup>4</sup> Tax Assessment of 1783, Cecil County, Hall of Records, Annapolis Maryland

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Significance

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7&8 PAGE 1

MITCHELL HOUSE-CONTINUATION

Description

Framed by a molded, eared architrave, the fireplace has no mantel shelf; but over the fire opening, there is a single large panel with an eared architrave. The remainder of this wall has a painted, plastered surface with a chair rail.

Throughout the Mitchell House, the doors have six panels, and those on the second floor have original L-shaped wrought iron hinges. Only the door to the attic is board and batten.

In the basement, the beams are notched and pinned. The attic floor of 18 inch wide boards is original.

Significance

Forge Chapel is dedicated to him. He was a founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland in 1799.

In 1790, Dr. Mitchell sold the "brick message lot" that was the Mitchell House and its outbuildings to James Partirdge, a gentleman of Delaware. A clause in the deed states that the sale was retroactive to December 14, 1780. In 1782, the "Commissioners appointed to Preserve Confiscated British Property" held three sales of some of Robert Alexander's property in and near Elkton, in the spring, summer, and fall.<sup>5</sup> There does not seem to be any record of Alexander selling the Elkton lot to Dr. Mitchell, so it is possible that Mitchell did not gain actual title until after the land was confiscated. Perhaps he bought the lot in 1780 at a sale similar to those held in 1782. A list of claims against confiscated British property in 1787 lists a debt of £14,,15,,9 from the Alexander estate to the account of Doctor Abraham Mitchell.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Journal of the Proceedings of the Commissioners Appointed to Preserve Confiscated British Property, 1781; February 23, 1781-November 21, 1782; Acc. No. 17289; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

<sup>6</sup>List of Claims against Confiscated British Property; Acc. No. 17296; Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

MITCHELL HOUSE-CONTINUATION

When James Partridge sold the property in 1810, he had moved to Baltimore where he was a merchant. The house passed through a number of hands, until 1859 when it was purchased by James T. McCullough. He was the husband of Catherine W. Mitchell, granddaughter of Abraham Mitchell. Her father, Colonel George Edward Mitchell, was probably born in the Mitchell House in 1781, just before Dr. Mitchell moved his family to Fair Hill. Colonel Mitchell practiced medicine with his father, but was also very active in politics and the military. He studied with his father and received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1805. He was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1808 to 1809 and was President of the Executive Council from 1809 until 1812. He served nine years with the Army, beginning during the War of 1812. He was commissioned as a major but became a brevet colonel because of the bravery and competence he exhibited in the campaign of the Army of the Niagara in northern New York. He served in the U. S. Congress from 1822 to 1827 and from 1829 until 1832. He became friendly with the Marquis de Lafayette during the latter's visit to the United States in 1824-1825. Colonel Mitchell died in Washington, D. C. in 1832.

Abraham Mitchell's descendants through his son's daughter owned the Mitchell House from 1859 until 1935. It is today the residence of Judge Edward D. E. Rollins, former Attorney General of Maryland, and his wife.

<sup>7</sup>Works Progress Administration Writers' Project, Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (Reprint of 1940 ed.; New York: Oxford University Press, 1973), p. 320.

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MITCHELL HOUSE  
Cecil County

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Statement of significance

The Mitchell House is a good example of a small Georgian Townhouse having a stair hall extending to the rear of the building with two adjoining rooms to the side on each floor. Though there have been additions to the rear of the house, the main part has retained its original character. Throughout the Mitchell House there is good proportion and design which incorporates characteristic features of both early and late Georgian architecture.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

MITCHELL HOUSE-CONTINUATION

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Secondary Sources

Cordell, Eugene Fauntleroy. The Medical Annals of Maryland, 1799-1800. Baltimore: Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland, 1903.

Dole, Esther Mohr. Maryland During the American Revolution. [Chestertown, Maryland]: By the Author, 1941.

Johnston, George. History of Cecil County, Maryland.... Reprint of 1881 ed. in Cecil County, a Reference Book of History, Business, and General Information. Baltimore: County Directories of Maryland, Inc., 1956.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County. Reprint of 1881 ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.

Works Progress Administration Writers' Project. Maryland, a Guide to the Old Line State. Reprint of 1940 ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## Primary Sources

CE-149

Land Records, Cecil County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland  
Tax Assessment of 1783, Cecil County. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 87' x 93'

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Pamela M. James, George Andreve

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Maryland Historical Trust

TELEPHONE

21 State Circle

301-267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Annapolis, Maryland

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

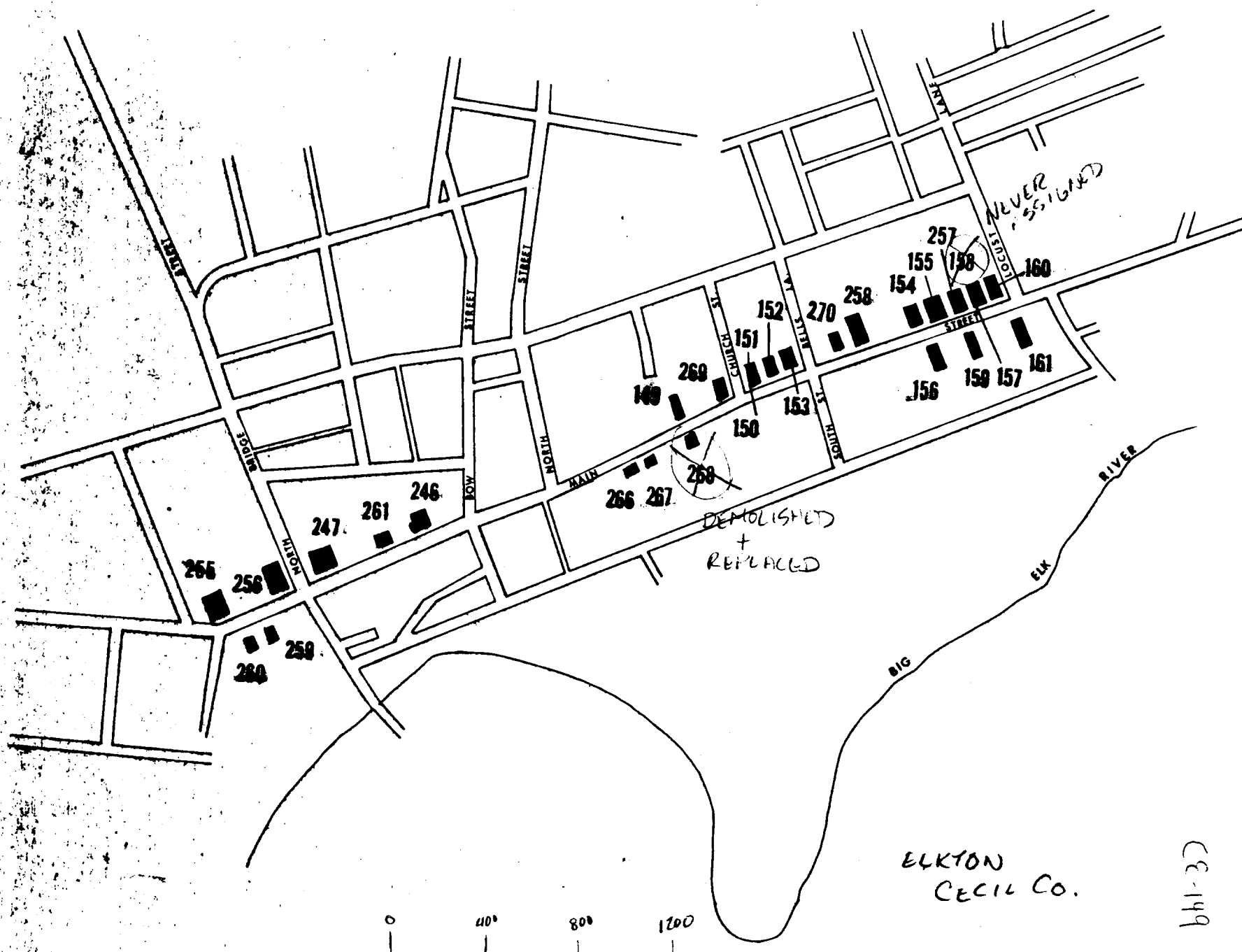
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



# ELKTON QUAD.



5863 III NW  
(BAY VIEW)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°52'30"  
39°37'30"

425000m E.

PLEASANT HILL 4 MI.  
CHILDS 1.7 MI.

380 000 FEET (DEL.)  
5.5 MI. TO MD. 273  
CHERRY HILL 2.6 MI.

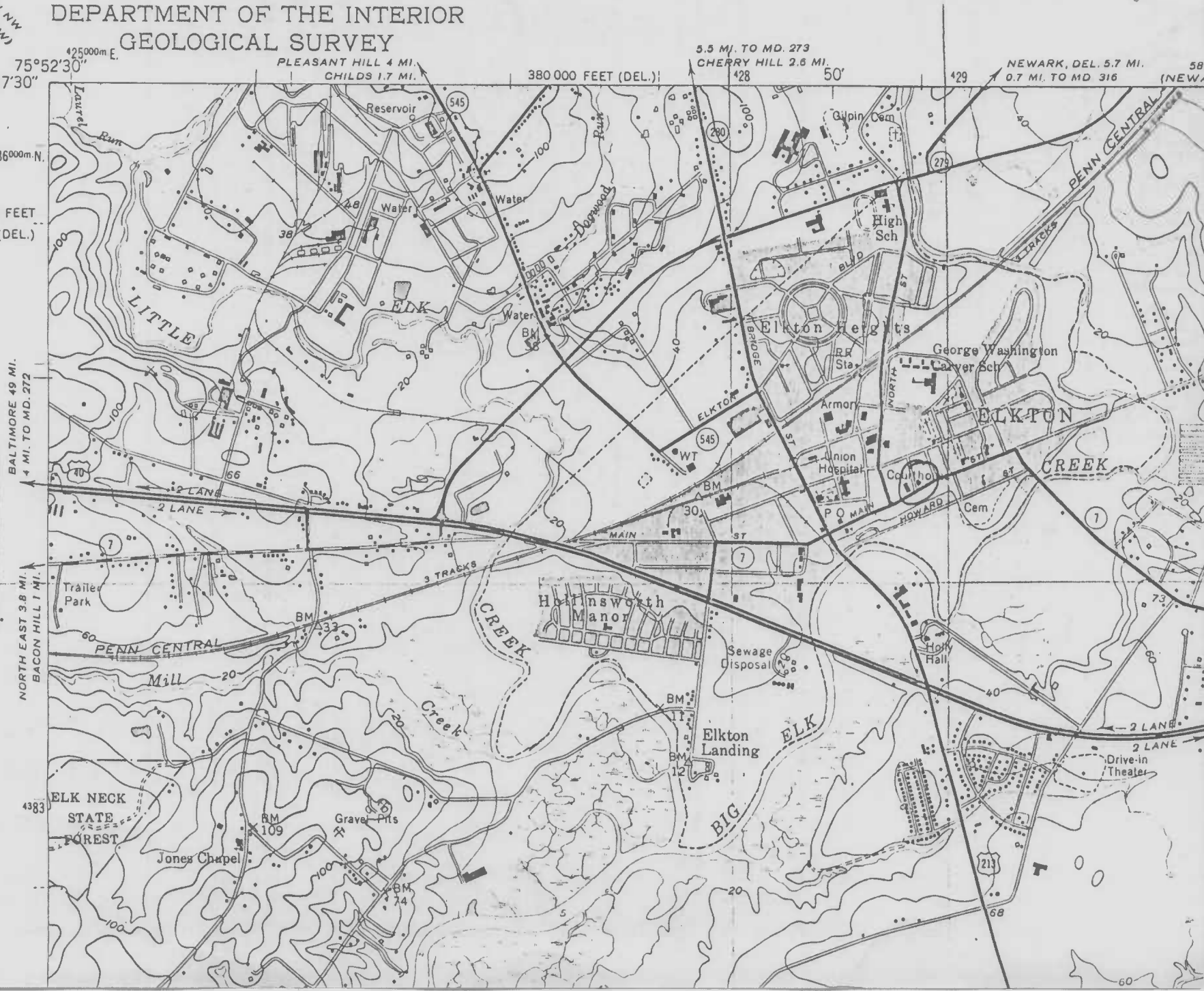
429  
NEWARK, DEL. 5.7 MI.  
0.7 MI. TO MD. 316

4386000m N.  
590 000 FEET  
(DEL.)

Mitchell House  
18/428870/  
4384460

ELKTON  
QUAD.

641-30





CE. 149

Mitchell House B-50 188 1/13



Mitchell House - Elkton      CE - 149

Elkton

Stair Newel

MOB/1968

NEG - MD. Hist. Trust



100, 100, 100, 100  
 100, 100, 100, 100  
 100, 100, 100, 100





CE-149

Mitchell House

131 Main Street

Geoffrey Henry 3/85



CE-149

Mitchell House

Elkton, Cecil County

Historic Photograph

Photographer - unknown



CE-1419

Mitchell House

131 Main Street

Elkton



CC - 149 Mitchell HSC

G.J.A. 4/75

539





Rollins-Mitchell Inc. Ellenton S. Main St. CE-149

RECEIVED  
IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

209-751 HABS MD 8-2212 to - 61



ce - 149 Mitchell Hse

G.J.A. 4/75

